



**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009**



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# NEWS RELEASE

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## ATCHISON COUNTY WHOLESALE WATER COMMISSION FUNDED BY USDA

The Atchison County Wholesale Water Commission received a Certificate of Appreciation on September 3, 2010 from USDA Missouri State Director, Janie Dunning.

The Atchison County Wholesale Water Commission (ACWWC) is receiving \$12,000,000 in loan funds and \$10,000,000 in grant funds. The ACWWC is providing \$90,000 of their funds to this project. The Certificate was presented in recognition of the ACWWC and their efforts to utilize American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant fund to stimulate the economy. The proposed ACWWC would serve an estimated 4,425 population with 2,157 users, including a regional healthcare facility.



Pictured above are members of the Commission and Missouri Rural Development State Director Janie Dunning.

The cities of Fairfax, Rock Port and Tarkio each have their wells and water treatment plants. Currently, Atchison PWS #1, whose boundaries include all of Atchison County, purchases treated water from Rock Port. All three cities are faced with the problems of antiquated facilities, tougher regulations and rising costs of producing water.

The Atchison County Wholesale Water Commission was formed to address the water quality and quantity for the users of all of the above customers. The ACWWC plans to develop new ground water sources, the running of raw water from the well field to the treatment plant and almost 20 miles of treated water transmission lines from the plant to the individual members of the ACWWC.

"With the help of competitive grant funds, Atchison County will be able to construct a regional water treatment facility to serve the residents of the county," U.S. Senator Claire  
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McCaskill. "I'm glad that with this help, the county will continue to provide citizens with a safe and dependable source of clean water."

"Having an environmentally safe water system is important to the residents and I commend all the partners for their hard work in making this project a reality," said Dunning. "This project mirrors President Obama's initiative and exemplifies Rural Development's mission – committed to the future of rural communities."

Chairman Kyra Mills said "The Atchison County Wholesale Water Commission would like to thank the Missouri offices of USDA-RD for their work in obtaining the ARRA funds. We would like to thank Congressman Sam Graves, Senator Claire McCaskill, Senator Kit Bond for their support. We also appreciate the support of Representative Mike Thomson and Senator Brad Lager at the state level."

Chair Mills also recognized key participants in the project: "The Commission wouldn't have gotten this far without the work of financial counsel Charles Zitnik of DA Davidson, lead engineer Bruce Hattig of Bartlett & West, attorney G. Edwin Proctor, Jr. of Heavner, Jarrett & Kimball, bond counsel Sid Douglas of Gilmore & Bell, and banker Mike Poland of Farmers State Bank."

Anyone interested in obtaining information regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Barbara Ross, Area Specialist, at the St. Joseph office of USDA Rural Development at 3915 Oakland Avenue, St. Joseph, Missouri 64506 or by calling 816-364-3767 (extension 4).